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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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December 11, 1995

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Dear Mr. Struve:

I have been asked to respond to your recent letter to National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane concerning the tragic fate of Raoul Wallenberg. The President, the Department of State, and Congress share a strong concern about the fate of Mr. Wallenberg. The U.S. Government takes every opportunity to make this concern known to the Soviet authorities.

Reflecting our interest in this case, President Reagan signed into law in October, 1981 a bill conferring honorary U.S. citizenship upon Raoul Wallenberg. Honoring Mr. Wallenberg in this fashion was an important symbolic act. Then, as now, it made the Soviets and the world aware of our great admiration for his courage and dedication to humanity. In addition, it stressed our abhorrence for his unjust and illegal punishment by the Soviet government.

To emphasize further our dedication to resolve the mystery of Mr. Wallenberg's fate, we raised his case with the Soviets through diplomatic channels after he was made an honorary citizen. To date the Soviets have not responded. Our efforts to find answers to the questions surrounding Mr. Wallenberg's case, however, will continue until the Soviets provide a full and satisfactory clarification of their involvement in the issue.

We have pressed our efforts both in bilateral meetings and international forums, such as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) Review Meeting in Madrid and the U.N. Human Rights Commission. In 1982, the U.S. Representative to the U.N. Human Rights Commission urged the Soviet Union to make a "humanitarian gesture which would contribute to universal good-feeling, namely a renewed search and full report, which may lay questions to rest; or else in the best of all possible outcomes, result in the discovery of the whereabouts of a man who stands among the heroes of our time." At a February 1983 session of the Commission, the U.S. Alternate Representative again raised the issue of Raoul Wallenberg, whom he termed "one of the genuine heroes of World War II, and one of the war's most noble spirits."

Mr. Guy Miller Struve
 Davis Polk and Wardwell
 1 Chase Manhattan Plaza
 New York, New York 10005

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We continue to work closely with the Swedish Government to investigate reports that Mr. Wallenberg might still be alive. Thus far we have been unable to substantiate this information.

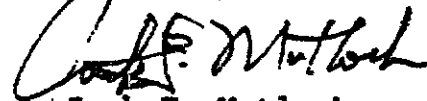
Nevertheless we continue to support a cooperative effort with the Swedish Government and other interested parties to shed light on the regrettable lacunas in the case of this brave man.

On January 17, 1985, President Reagan issued a statement marking the fortieth anniversary of Raoul Wallenberg's disappearance and commemorating his "heroic deeds in saving thousands of Hungarian Jews." In his statement the President said, "We will continue to insist that the Soviet Union has a moral obligation to answer, once and for all, the questions we have about his fate."

President Reagan discussed the full range of issues bearing on U.S.-Soviet relations, including human rights, during his November meeting with General Secretary Gorbachev. As we prepared for that meeting, we welcomed hearing your views.

If we can be of further assistance to you in this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Jack F. Matlock
Special Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

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